PICTURES WHILE
FIRST LADY

DRAWER 2 MRS. A. LINCOLN - FIRST LADY

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Mary Todd Lincoln

Pictures while First Lady

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2004, 085.64441

MRS. LINCOLN, WIFE OF THE PRESIDENT.—[PHOTOGRAPHED BY BRADY.]

MRS. LINCOLN; WASHINGTON, 1862

MRS. LINCOLN; WASHINGTON, 1862

MRS. LINCOLN ; WASHINGTON, 1862

MRS. LINCOLN.

From a photograph by Brady, now in the War collection of Robert Coster, Esq., by whose kind permission it was used for the present reproduction.

MARY TODD LINCOLN.

From a carbon enlargement, by Sherman and McHugh of New York, of a photograph by Brady. Mary Todd was born in Lexington, Kentucky, December 13, 1818. Her mother died when she was young, and she was educated at one of the best-known schools of the State—Madame Mantelli's. She remained there some four years, and as the school was conducted entirely in French, she spoke the language fluently. She was afterwards some time in the Ward Academy of Lexington. Miss Todd first visited Springfield in 1837, but remained only a few months. In 1839 she returned to make her home with her sister, Mrs. Edwards. She had two other sisters in the town, Mrs. William Wallace and Mrs. C. M. Smith. The story of her life will, of course, be told in connection with that of Mr. Lincoln in the forthcoming articles. The photograph used for this reproduction was kindly loaned by Mrs. S. J. Withington, Warner, New Hampshire.

McClure's, 1896

From *The Life of Abraham Lincoln*, Ida M. Tarbell.

MRS. MARY TODD LINCOLN

Wife of the President.

An interesting ceremony took place in the White House when a portrait of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln was hung. Her son, former Secretary of War Robert Todd Lincoln, who makes his home in Georgetown, was present at the ceremony. The picture was placed in the oval room immediately below the blue room. The picture was painted by Miss Kate Helm, a relative of the family, at the instigation of Robert T. Lincoln.

1926

sary of Honest Abe

Daily News Feb. New York

(By P. & A. from Chicago Historical Society collection.)

Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, the former Mary Todd. She was married to Lincoln in 1842, when he was a young lawyer.

MRS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. The original portrait from which this reproduction was made was taken during President Lincoln's term as Chief Executive of the United States. Wash. Post 2-10-29

RARELY SEEN PORTRAIT OF MRS. LINCOLN.

A portrait of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, painted while she was First Lady of the Land, but, so far as could be learned yesterday, never shown publicly, was placed on exhibition yesterday by the Milch Galleries, 108 West Fifty-seventh Street.

The portrait is by Francis Bickness Carpenter, who was born in Homer, N. Y., in 1830 and died here in 1900. In 1851 Carpenter opened a studio here and painted portraits of many of the famous men of the day. His most celebrated work, "The Emancipation Proclamation," was widely exhibited in 1864-65 and is now in the House of Representatives in Washington.

Carpenter painted the portrait of Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of the President, at her request as a surprise for Mr. Lincoln. The artist portrayed her as wearing a miniature of her husband, whose features are clearly seen in the portrait. After the President's assassination, however, Mrs. Lincoln asked the artist to dispose of the portrait, since she was in straitened circumstances.

Carpenter sold the portrait to Jacob G. Neafie, Philadelphia shipbuilder. Years later the painting was presented to Susan D. Bloom, an American singer, in recognition of her kindness to the Neafie family during a long illness. It has changed hands only once since then, according to the Milch Galleries.

In Mrs. Lincoln's expression in the portrait there appears no trace of anxiety about the future, which brought her little but tragedy. After the death of President Lincoln she was financially pressed. Some years later her son Tad died. Her distress so affected her mind that in 1875 it was necessary to place her in a sanitarium. Within a year she was declared sane, but never regained happiness and died in 1882.

Mary Todd Lincoln was the daughter of Robert S. Todd of Lexington, Ky. Lincoln met her in 1839 and married her on Nov. 4, 1842. This was seven years after the tragic ending of his first love affair—his betrothal in 1835 to Ann Rutledge, who died of brain fever in August of that year.

New York Times Feb 12 1929

Mrs. Abraham Lincoln

Philadelphia 1953

Chicago Sunday Tribune Oct. 21, 1937

A BELLE OF KENTUCKY, great-granddaughter of a general of the Revolution, Mary Todd came in 1839 to Springfield to make her home with her sister, Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards, daughter-in-law of the Illinois governor. In 1842 she became the bride of Lincoln. Stormy had been their romance, troubled was their married life. Confined for some time in a private sanitarium in 1875, she later was declared sane, and management of her estate was returned to her. Paralysis ended her life at Mrs. Edwards' home in 1882.

2/6/38
Los Angeles Sunday Times

MRS. LINCOLN in the simple black gown which she affected after the death of their son Willie.

E 506 LINCOLN, Mary. Wife of the President. Handsome large photograph, 14 x 10½ inches, Executive Mansion, 1864. Signed in full. A very unusual picture, showing her posed besides a chair, one hand resting on it, the other hanging loosely by her side. Her dress seems black, and her ornaments consist of a brooch and a chatelaine chain caught into her belt. Extremely rare. The photograph has been laid down on a mat, 15 x 19 inches in size. $50.00

The Collector
March - 1944

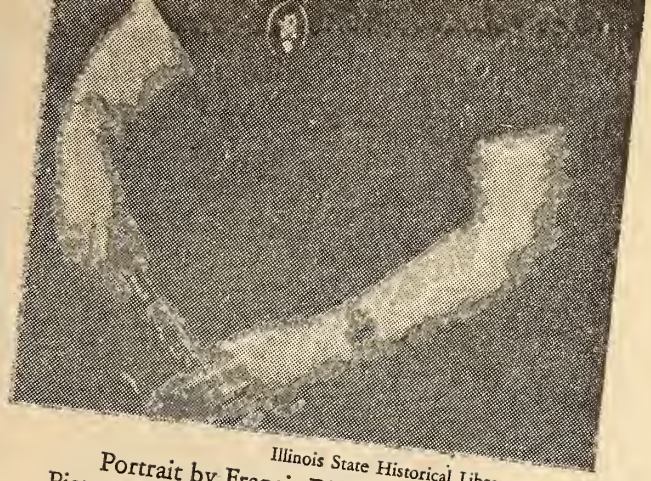
9 This lady had been branded as a shrew and a schemer who caused her troubled husband much unhappiness. Modern historians, however, are reassessing her character and proving that much of the early descriptions were untrue. She was extravagant, though, paying $2,000 for an Inaugural gown.

Illinois State Historical Library

ry Todd Lincoln in the White
By Mathew B. Brady. The news
called it "one of the most attrac-
notographs of the wife of the
nt". She is gowned in velvet.

Illinois State Historical Library

Todd Lincoln in 1864.



Illinois State Historical Library

Portrait by Francis Bickness Carpenter. Picture was painted at the request of Mrs. Lincoln who wanted it as a surprise for her husband. The miniature at her neck holds a likeness of Mr. Lincoln. The portrait was later sold after Lincoln's death.

Illinois State Historical Library

Mary Todd Lincoln in her second inaugural ball gown. Photograph was made by Brady in Washington, D.C., in April, 1865, a few days before the ball. The dress, of pink silk, was elaborately trimmed with lace.

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Illinois State Historical Library

As Mary Todd appeared when Abraham Lincoln first met her in 1839. From a daguerreotype by Katherine Helm, a niece of Mary Todd's.

Chevrolet Collection

Mary Todd Lincoln as a belle of four years. Taken in 1846. From a daguerreotype by N. H. Shepherd, one of the first photographers of early Springfield.

Illinois State Historical Library

Mrs. Lincoln and her sons Willie (left) and Tad (right) taken in Springfield late in 1860 by Preston Butler. The Lincolns were the parents of four sons: Edward Baker, who died in 1850 at the age of 4; William Wallace, who died in 1862, aged 11; Thomas, who died in 1871, aged 18; and Robert Todd, who died in 1926, aged 83. He was the last direct descendant with the surname of Lincoln.

The State Journal-Register

Women in the news

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1968

PAULINE L. TELFORD, Woman's Editor

Mary Todd Lincoln

Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States, was a woman of many facets. Genteel and well educated she could speak French and was well versed in politics. Though a native of Kentucky she spent a great part of her adult life in Springfield both during her marriage to Lincoln and after his death. Nine years younger than her husband, she was born Dec. 13, 1818, the daughter of the Robert S. Todds of Lexington. It was while visiting her sister, Mrs. Ninian Edwards of Springfield, that she met Lincoln at a ball in 1839 and after a turbulent courtship married him on Nov. 4, 1842. After 17 tragic filled years following Lincoln's assassination in 1865, she died July 16, 1882, in Springfield at her sister's home where she had spent her declining years.

Chevrolet Collection

As First Lady in her inaugural gown. Taken in 1861 by Mathew B. Brady. Mrs. Lincoln loved flowers and often posed with them in her hair or hands.

Illinois State Historical Library

Mary Todd Lincoln in the White House. By Mathew B. Brady. The news clipping called it "one of the most attractive photographs of the wife of the president". She is gowned in velvet.

Illinois State Historical Library

Portrait by Francis Bickness Carpenter. Picture was painted at the request of Mrs. Lincoln who wanted it as a surprise for her husband. The miniature at her neck holds a likeness of Mr. Lincoln. The portrait was later sold after Lincoln's death.

Chevrolet Collection

Mrs. Lincoln at the age of 43. Photograph by Brady, Washington, D.C., 1861.

Meserve Collection

Mrs. Lincoln, about 1863. She is in mourning for her son, Willie, whose death occurred in 1862.

Illinois State Historical Library

Mary Todd Lincoln in 1864.

Illinois State Historical Library

Mary Todd Lincoln in her second inaugural ball gown. Photograph was made by Brady in Washington, D.C., in April, 1865, a few days before the ball. The dress, of pink silk, was elaborately trimmed with lace.

A Tiffany Customer

One of our most important customers wearing her Tiffany jewelry, Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

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Lincoln Lore

September, 1980

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor. Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.

Number 1711

BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE

Lincoln in Graphic Art, 1860-1865
The Sentimental Counterattack

Politics provided subject matter for the satirical artists of Lincoln's day, but satire was never the dominant motif in popular prints. Sentimentalism dominated American taste — even highbrow taste. Pro-Lincoln cartoons and simple portraits to be hung on parlor walls answered the satirists while Lincoln was President. After he was assassinated, there was no need to answer the critics. They were completely silenced, and an enormous sentimental counterattack swept them from the field — virtually forever.

The last issue of *Lincoln Lore* focused mostly on the satirical vein in graphic art in Lincoln's day. This issue dwells on the sentimental strain which prevailed in popular depictions of Lincoln after April 15, 1865. The prints shown are all part of an exhibit entitled, "BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE: Lincoln in Graphic Art, 1860-1865." It will be on view in the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C., through March, 1981.

The only really respectable art, popular or otherwise, in the Victorian era was sentimental in content. Satire had at best a marginal respectability. Even humorists as great as Mark Twain ran afoul of the genteel tradition as late as the end of the nineteenth century. In Lincoln's day joke books were sold more at train stations than by respectable booksellers. As the previous issue of *Lincoln Lore* showed, Lincoln's own reputation for wit was something of a liability.

The graphic arts do not lend themselves to subtle interpretations of events. Subtlety is the realm of the word. In the pictorial and popular view of things, John Wilkes Booth was the tool of the devil, and angels carried Lincoln to heaven. There he was greeted by George Washington. When printmakers needed noncontroversial images, they could always turn to religion and to the Father of His Country. The immediate association of Lincoln with Washington was remarkable. Lincoln's association with him was possible because the Civil War had saved the Union Washington had founded. It was the sort of association that a printmaker wanted to make only when it was a safe bet. Although there are many prints of Washington and Lincoln together, none bears a date before 1865. Statesmanship on a par with George Washington's was truly within the ability only of dead politicians.

Another part of the sentimental counterattack which had lasting effects was the development of what might be called the "Cult of the First Family." Lincoln never realized the power of this, and the printmakers were surprisingly slow to do so. When they caught on, however, they launched a phenomenon now visible at every newsstand and grocery store check-out counter in America, as glossy magazines vie with each other to blazon forth color pictures and pulp stories about the President's wife, children, brothers, sisters, mother, and father.

From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 1. The simple view of the assassination.

The printmakers' slowness to provide the sentimental public they served with a suitable portrait of the First Family (the term was not used in Lincoln's day) was in part due to the old problem of models to copy. President Lincoln never posed with his whole family for a photograph. His wife was rarely photographed and was never photographed with her husband. Only in February, 1864 did Lincoln and his son Thomas sit for a charming portrait which provided a model for numerous scenes of domestic bliss.

Lincoln's failure to provide good models to copy was only a part of the problem. The printmakers were apparently unaware of the potential market for family scenes. Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln raised Abraham from age nine to maturity and outlived her stepson, but it never occurred to anyone to go out to Coles County, Illinois, and photograph her until after her stepson was killed. Knowledge of Lincoln's family was hard to

From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 2. Lincoln was carried to heaven . . .

come by. Even when a printmaker copied the photograph of Lincoln and his son Thomas, the print was entitled, "Lincoln and His Son Thaddeus"! Tad was the boy's nickname, bestowed on him by his father, who thought he looked like a tadpole (with a large head and small body) when he was a baby.

From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 3. . . . to meet George Washington.

After the assassination the printmakers caught on quickly. They invented the family portraits which Lincoln had never provided in life. Starting with the photograph of Lincoln and Tad, they added other family members from other individual portraits. When they did not know what a family member looked like, they sometimes turned his head away from the viewer and dressed him as a typical little boy from some English Victorian print.

The urge to have America's Presidents domesticated proved to be strong in Victorian America, and an abundance of family prints appeared just after Lincoln's death — many of them crude, some grotesque, and all the products of printmakers' imaginations. The popularity of these pictures could not be ignored — nor could their unstated political message: could this good family man in his Victorian parlor really be a threat to American liberties? President Ulysses S. Grant would calm any anxieties that he might prove to be a dangerous "man on horseback" by appearing in numerous family portraits.

The unskilled crudity of most of the family prints is as much a comment on the demand for domestic art as on the infant stage of America's graphic arts industry. These prints were long on love and short on technical skill, but they are eloquent

From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 4. Lincoln and "Thaddeus."

testimony to the reverence Americans held for Lincoln — eventually. They were also responsible for discovering a nearly unquenchable market for pictures of the President's family, a market that has not been saturated to this day.

The printmakers' association of Lincoln with George Washington was also prophetic. Before the twentieth century, educated opinion ranked Washington first and Lincoln second among American Presidents. Even John G. Nicolay, Lincoln's private secretary and biographer, typified this thinking in 1904, when he wrote, "If we accord the first rank to Washington as founder, so we must unhesitatingly give to Lincoln the second place as preserver and regenerator of American liberty." In polls of historians taken in 1948, 1962, and 1968, however, Lincoln ranked first and Washington second in all three.

Poll of 55 Experts by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., 1948

1. Abraham Lincoln
2. George Washington

From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 5. Sometimes Tad became Willie.

3. Franklin D. Roosevelt
4. Woodrow Wilson
5. Thomas Jefferson
6. Andrew Jackson
7. Theodore Roosevelt
8. Grover Cleveland
9. John Adams
10. James K. Polk

Poll of 75 Experts by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., 1962.

1. Abraham Lincoln
2. George Washington
3. Franklin D. Roosevelt
4. Woodrow Wilson
5. Thomas Jefferson

From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 6. Willie's portrait is on the wall.

From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 7. Mary's legs appear to be very short.

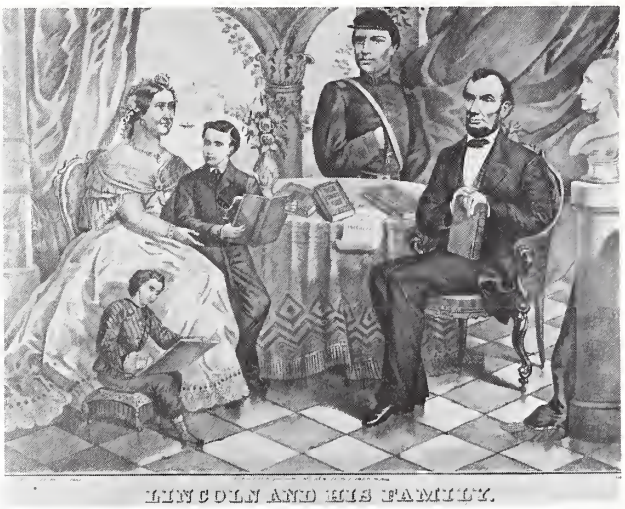
6. Andrew Jackson
7. Theodore Roosevelt
8. James K. Polk — Tie
9. Harry S. Truman — Tie
10. John Adams
11. Grover Cleveland

Poll of 571 Historians by Gary M. Maranell, 1968.

1. Abraham Lincoln
2. George Washington
3. Franklin D. Roosevelt
4. Thomas Jefferson
5. Theodore Roosevelt
6. Woodrow Wilson

From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 8. Note portraits of George and Martha Washington.



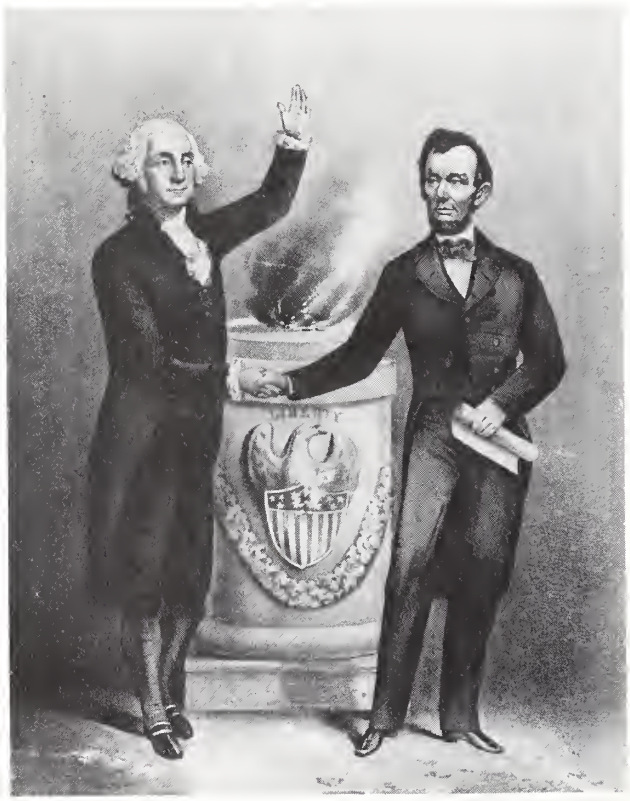
From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum.

FIGURE 9. A grotesque Lincoln family.

7. Harry S. Truman
8. Andrew Jackson
9. John Kennedy
10. John Adams

From "The Evaluation of Presidents: An Extension of the Schlesinger Polls," *Journal of American History*, LVII (June, 1970), 104-113.

There were no public opinion polls in Lincoln's day, but the popular prints provide a sort of barometer of public opinion. Their direct legacy to us, Lincoln's incomparably high reputation and the Cult of the First Family, even anticipated public opinion. Their indirect legacy is a rich and vivid documentation of the social and political currents of Abraham Lincoln's era.



From the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 10. Lincoln was taller than Washington.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Illinois State Historical Society is seeking proposals for papers, or sessions, to be delivered at the Second Annual Symposium on Illinois History, December 4-5, 1981. Papers, or sessions, will be considered on any aspect of the history, literature, art and culture, politics, geography, archeology, anthropology, and related fields of Illinois and/or the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys. The Symposium will be held in Springfield.

Individuals who wish to submit proposals should send a three hundred to six hundred word summary, along with resumes of intended participants, to:

Roger D. Bridges, Director of Research
Illinois State Historical Library
Old State Capitol
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Proposals must be received by April 15, 1981. Individuals will be notified of the Committee's decision by June 1, 1981.

Members of the Symposium Committee are Robert M. McColley, University of Illinois—Urbana/Champaign, Chairman; G. Cullom Davis, Sangamon State University; Raymond E. Hauser, Waubonsee Community College; Victor Hicken, Western Illinois University; Wilma J. Lund, Illinois State Board of Education; and Robert E. Sterling, Joliet Junior College.

CALL FOR LINCOLN PAPERS

The Abraham Lincoln Association is seeking papers for its Ninth Annual Abraham Lincoln Symposium, which will be held on February 12, 1982. Proposals for papers dealing with Abraham Lincoln should be submitted no later than June 1, 1981, to Roger D. Bridges, Chairman of the Symposium Committee, Abraham Lincoln Association, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

Springfield's annual symposium on Abraham Lincoln is the premier Lincoln event in the country. Each year the leading scholars in the Lincoln field gather in Lincoln's home town to deliver or to listen to the latest findings in scholarship. The symposium is free of charge, and all interested Lincoln students should make an effort to attend. The papers are always worthwhile, and the opportunity to mingle with other like-minded people is not to be missed.

The symposium is followed in the evening by the annual dinner of the Abraham Lincoln Association. This is always a gala event and makes a fine conclusion to the day. To be sure of receiving the announcement of the symposium and the dinner, join the Abraham Lincoln Association. Individual memberships are available for fifteen dollars. Membership includes a subscription to the *Papers of the Abraham Lincoln Association*, a handome journal published annually. Requests for membership or for additional information should be directed to Mr. William K. Alderfer, Secretary, Abraham Lincoln Association, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

A Correction

While dispensing advice to collectors in *Lincoln Lore* Number 1709 (July, 1980), I neglected to mention that they should study the dates and signatures carefully — something I did not do myself in the case of the letter shown on page 3. As James R. H. Spears of Indianapolis quickly pointed out, the letter could not have been written by Lew Wallace. The handwriting is not his, and he died four years before the letter was written.

The letter came in a lot of genuine materials, and I carelessly accepted the owner's identification of the author. I spent all my effort trying to figure out who the recipient of the letter was and what book it referred to. Mr. Spears closed his letter by saying, "I wonder who Charlie and Lew really were?" Do any of *Lincoln Lore's* other knowledgeable readers know?

M.E.N., Jr.

A New Mary Todd Lincoln Photograph

A Tour of the White Mountains in Summer, 1863

LLOYD OSTENDORF

Original Lincoln family photographs were among the treasures found in 1982 at Hildene, Robert Todd Lincoln's home at Manchester, Vermont. Of special significance was a brownish-toned image from a stereocard—approximately 2 1/2 inches by 3 1/2 inches—that showed Mary Lincoln on an 1863 excursion with sons Tad and Robert and friends from Chicago. The image was not known at the time of the author's comprehensive *Photographs of Mary Todd Lincoln*. It is published here with the permission of its owner, the Lincoln Museum of Fort Wayne, Indiana.[1]

Oddly enough, in the cache of family memorabilia at Hildene, only two photographs of Mary Lincoln were found—this one, and the E. and H. T. Anthony Company carte de visite numbered ML, 0-23. The image published here—and now numbered ML, 0-27—was from a most difficult period of the First Lady's life.

The summer of 1863 had been especially sweltering in Washington. On July 2, as a result of a carriage accident, Mary Lincoln received a serious head injury. After an enforced convalescence of three weeks, she gathered up Tad and began an extended vacation to New York City and through the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Late in July the party was joined by Robert Lincoln, who was nursing

Lloyd Ostendorf of Dayton, Ohio, is an artist and illustrator whose avocation has long been the study of Lincoln. He has been the art editor of the Lincoln Herald *since 1957. He is the coauthor (with Charles Hamilton) of* Lincoln in Photographs, An Album of Every Known Pose *(1963, revised 1985) and author and illustrator of* Mr. Lincoln Came to Dayton *(1959) and* A Picture Story of Abraham Lincoln *(1962), revised and republished in 1981 as* Lincoln: The Boy the Man. *He holds honorary degrees from Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois, and Lincoln Memorial University.*

[1] For descriptions of the early investigative trips into Hildene, see James T. Hickey, "Robert Todd Lincoln and the 'Purely Private' Letters of the Lincoln Family," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, 74 (1981), 59–79.

July or August, 1863

ML, 0-27

Photographer unknown
The White Mountains, New Hampshire

Lincoln Museum
Fort Wayne

a wound of the heart after being "shattered" by a wedding.[2]

The White Mountains, the tallest east of the Rockies, were known for their majestic beauty and fearsome heights, but the spot chosen for this photograph was not considered rugged. The Flume Gorge of the Franconia Notch was quickly and easily reached from the road, according to an 1850s travel guide. The gorge had walls of about fifty feet in height, with twenty feet of standing room between.[3]

The handwritten description on the back of the stereocard identifies by name only "Mrs. Lincoln, R.T.L., and the [illegible word] Mrs. D[illegible letters]ham of Chicago."

The nearby Flume House, built in 1848 and destroyed by fire in 1871, was one of the most famous hotels in the White Mountains.[4] It is quite possible that the Lincoln party lodged there, although there is little information from the 1863 trip. The President and Mrs. Lincoln exchanged many letters and telegrams from July through mid-September, but none of the correspondence to or from the White Mountains appears to have survived. Only the faded photograph attests to the obscure trip.[5]

For Robert Lincoln, the trip was especially important because it eventually led to Manchester, Vermont, where he had his first look at the town in which he would choose to build his stately mansion, Hildene.

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[2] Ruth Painter Randall, *Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage* (Boston: Little, 1953), pp. 324–26.

[3] *Appletons' Illustrated Hand-Book of American Travel* (New York: Appleton, 1857), p. 100.

[4] Federal Writers' Project, *New Hampshire: A Guide to the Granite State* (Boston: Houghton, 1938), pp. 324–25.

[5] For a reporter's description of the White Mountains excursion and Mary Lincoln's happy memories of it, see Randall, pp. 324–26.

At right: MRS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN wore this flowing velvet gown in 1861.

Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Ab. Lin.

—Photo copyright Bachrach.

Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Abraham Lincoln. . . . Her descendents have always resented her treatment by historians. . . . Their pride in her is shown by the way they have handed down her name.

Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln, Wife of the President—One of the dresses, such as Mrs. Lincoln wears in this etching, has been preserved in the National Museum. This is also an etching from the Lewis Collection in the Free Library.

Lincolniana.

A family-owned portrait of Mary Todd Lincoln hanging on the Paisley shawl given to her by Queen Victoria. The Bible belonged to Abraham Lincoln and it rests on a hand-embroidered shawl made by Mrs. Lincoln. These and other mementoes from the collection of L. H. Dickmann, Covington, are more fully described in an article in today's Enquirer Magazine Section.